

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11, and 16 are amended hereby. No claims are added or canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment After Final, claims 1-14, 16-20, and 22-23 will remain pending.

In the Office Action dated October 18, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 16. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the word "shield" should be inserted between the words "electrostatic" and "and". The Applicant sincerely apologizes for this oversight. In response, the Applicant has amended claim 16 as suggested by the Examiner. As a result, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 16.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 2-5, 7-10, 13-14, and 17-20 are allowed. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowed subject matter. Since claims 2-5, 7-10, 13-14, and 17-20 are allowed, the Applicant does not address these claims further.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Blalock (U.S. Patent No. 5,647,913). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 11-12, 16, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Blalock in view of Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,571,366). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with each of these rejections and, therefore, respectfully traverses the same.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, and 22 are not anticipated by Blalock because the reference fails to describe each and every feature now recited by those claims. In particular, the Applicant respectfully submits that Blalock does not describe an assembly configured to be coupled to components of a plasma reactor that combines a number of features including, among them, a spira-shield electrically connected to the electrostatic shield where the spira-shield grounds the electrostatic shield. As a result, the

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Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection asserted by the Examiner cannot be maintained.

Blalock describes a plasma reactor 10 with an electrically insulative shell 12, internal walls 14, and an internal reactor cavity 16. (Blalock at col. 3, lines 49-55.) Electrically conductive inductive coils 18 are positioned external to the cavity 16 and the shell 12. (Blalock at col. 3, lines 56-57.) An internal electrode 22 is used to support a wafer and is connected to a conventional capacitively coupled bias power source 24. (Blalock at col. 3, lines 64-67.) A capacitive coupling plate 26 is positioned externally of the cavity 16, between the shell 12 and the inductive coils 18. (Blalock at col. 4, lines 1-3.) The capacitive coupling plate 26 is provided with a series of slot openings 36 (see Fig. 2) and has the ability to function as an electrostatic shield. (Blalock at col. 4, lines 20-22.) Specifically, when the switch 30 connects line 28 to ground 32, plate 26 functions as an electrostatic shield plate. (Blalock at col. 4, lines 23-27.)

No-where does Blalock describe an assembly configured to be coupled to components of a plasma reactor that combines a number of features including, among them, a spira-shield electrically connected to the electrostatic shield where the spira-shield grounds the electrostatic shield. Accordingly, the reference fails to describe each and every feature of the invention as claimed. At least for this reason, the Applicant respectfully submits that Blalock cannot anticipate claims 1, 6, or 22 or any of the remaining claims for that matter.

Ishii et al. does not assist the Examiner with a rejection of the claims because Ishii et al. does not, at a minimum, cure the deficiency noted with respect to Blalock. While Ishii et al. does discuss an electrostatic shield means 91 (see, e.g., col. 12, line 54, through col. 13, line 31), Ishii et al. suffers from the same deficiency as Blalock. Specifically, there is no discussion of an assembly configured to be coupled to components of a plasma reactor that combines a number of features including, among them, a spira-shield electrically connected

to the electrostatic shield where the spira-shield grounds the electrostatic shield. Accordingly, Ishii et al. cannot be combined properly with Blalock to render claims 11-12, 16, and 23 unpatentable.

Each of the rejections having been addressed, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, withdraw the rejections, and pass this application to issue.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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